CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for ranking relevancy of search results of a search for media on a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

categorizing metadata associated with said media, each category of metadata comprising at least one set of metadata;

assigning at least one weight to each set of metadata, wherein a value of each weight is determined in accordance with a content of each set of metadata; and

calculating a score for ranking said relevancy of each search result, wherein a score is calculated for each search result in accordance with said at least one assigned weight and category of each set of metadata.

2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said category comprises at least one of artist of said media, type of media, date said media was created, and creation location of said media.

3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said value of each weight is determined in accordance with at least one of bit rate of said media, duration of said media, sampling rate of said media, a number of occurrences of a term in a set of metadata, a number of links to a referenced web site in a set of metadata, a file type of said media, and a number of terms occurring between specified query terms in a web page.

4. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said at least one set of metadata is categorized in accordance with predetermined associations between said categories and said sets of metadata.

1   5.   A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said metadata comprise

2   elements related to at least one of content of the media, intellectual property

3   rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.

1   6.   A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said media comprises at

2   least one of multimedia and streaming media.

1   7.   A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said communications

2   network is a computer network.

1   8.   A program readable medium having embodied thereon a program for

2   causing a processor to rank relevancy of search results of a search for media on

3   a communications network, said program readable medium comprising:

4   means for causing said processor to categorize metadata associated with

5   said media, each category of metadata comprising at least one set of metadata;

6   means for causing said processor to assign at least one weight to each set

7   of metadata, wherein a value of each weight is determined in accordance with a

8   content of each set of metadata; and

9   means for causing said processor to calculate a score for ranking said

10   relevancy of each search result, wherein a score is calculated for each search

11   result in accordance with said at least one assigned weight and category of each

12   set of metadata.

1   9.   A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said

2   category comprises at least one of artist of said media, type of media, date said

3   media was created, and creation location of said media.

1   10.   A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said

2   value of each weight is determined in accordance with at least one of bit rate of

3   said media, duration of said media, sampling rate of said media, a number of

4   occurrences of a term in a set of metadata, a number of links to a referenced

5   web site in a set of metadata, a file type of said media, and a number of terms

6   occurring between specified query terms in a web page.

1   11.   A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said at

2   least one set of metadata is categorized in accordance with predetermined

3   associations between said categories and said sets of metadata.

1   12.   A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said

2   metadata comprise elements related to at least one of content of the media,

3   intellectual property rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the

4   media.

1   13.   A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:

2   a categorize metadata code segment for categorizing metadata

3   associated with media on a communications network, each category of

4   metadata comprising at least one set of metadata;

5   an assign weight code segment for assigning at least one weight to each

6   set of metadata, wherein a value of each weight is determined in accordance

7   with a content of each set of metadata; and

8   a calculate score code segment for calculating a score for ranking

9   relevancy of search results of a search for said media on a commuications

10   network, wherein a score is calculated for each search result in accordance with

11   said at least one assigned weight and category of each set of metadata.

1   14.   A data signal in accordance with claim 13, wherein said categories

2   comprise at least one of artist of said media, type of media, date said media was

3   created, and creation location of said media.

1   15.   A data signal in accordance with claim 13, wherein said value of each

2   weight is determined in accordance with at least one of bit rate of said media,

3   duration of said media, sampling rate of said media, a number of occurrences

4   of a term in a set of metadata, a number of links to a referenced web site in a

5   set of metadata, a file type of said media, and a number of terms occurring

6   between specified query terms in a web page.

1   16.   A data signal in accordance with claim 13, wherein said at least one set

2   of metadata is categorized in accordance with predetermined associations

3   between said categories and said sets of metadata.

1   17.   A data signal in accordance with claim 13, wherein said metadata

2   comprise elements related to at least one of content of the media, intellectual

3   property rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.

1   18.   A method for ranking relevancy of search results of a search for at least

2   one of streaming media and multimedia (m/s media) on a communications

3   network, said method comprising the steps of:

4   categorizing metadata associated with said at least one of m/s media,

5   each category of metadata comprising at least one set of metadata, wherein said

6   category comprises at least one of artist of said m/s media, type of m/s media,

7   date said m/s media was created, and creation location of said m/s media;

8   assigning at least one weight to each set of metadata, wherein:

9   a value of each weight is determined in accordance with a content

10   of each set of metadata; and

11   said value of each weight is determined in accordance with at

12   least one of bit rate of said m/s media, duration of said m/s media, sampling

13   rate of said m/s media, a number of occurrences of a term in a set of metadata,

14 a number of links to a referenced web site in a set of metadata, a file type of

15 said m/s media, and a number of terms occurring between specified query

16 terms in a web page; and

17   calculating a score for ranking said relevancy of each search result, wherein a

18 score is calculated for each search result in accordance with said at least one assigned

19 weight and category of each set of metadata.